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ANA Stance only tremor of 1960's to rock Jefferson, pp.67

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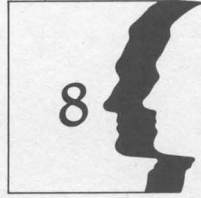
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ANA STANCE ONLY TREMOR
OF 1960's TO ROCK JEFFERSON
1960-1969

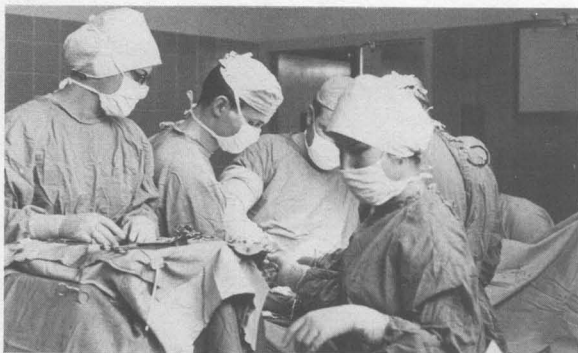
VIEWED FROM A perspective of 20 years later, the Sixties emerge in a checkerboard pattern of tumult, tragedy, and triumph. The younger generation revolted against The Establishment. Parents were drips, teachers pedantic fools, and police "pigs". The civil rights movement accelerated in the Selma-to-Montgomery march, a mass demonstration in Washington, and the Watts riots. Vietnam War protesters burned their draft cards, radical feminists torched their bras in defiance of male chauvinism, and Marilyn Monroe was on time for her last rendezvous.

The nation plunged into mourning on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in Dallas on November 22, 1963; and the bloodbath continued with the subsequent slayings of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Senator Robert F. Kennedy. President Lyndon B. Johnson's high-minded War on Poverty bogged down in the quicksands of Vietnam. Yet ever-resilient Americans found outlets for their frustrations in Beatlemania, the new "twist" dance craze, miniskirts, and the first walk on the Moon by three U.S. astronauts.

Philadelphia, as did other urban areas, experienced social and economic upheaval during the 1960's. There was an upperclass return to the city in Society Hill and in new high-rise apartment buildings, accompanied by a continuing middle-class flight to the suburbs. The minority populations burst out of their old ghettos and spread in all directions, only to find that crime, drugs, and



Marilyn Ruble, '67, draws medication at nurses' station in Foerderer Pavilion. She was the 4,000th graduate of the School of Nursing and was accorded special recognition at commencement ceremonies.



Student nurse Judith L. Stevenson, '67 (right), assists in the operating room.



Lt. (j.g.) Dorothea Hamilton, '65, a Navy nurse stationed at a hospital in Vietnam, checks on the condition of one of her patients.

gang warfare were still the handmaidens of poverty.

Jefferson Surges Ahead

Although not impervious to the cultural shocks of the era, Jefferson continued its steady march of progress during the 1960's. As mentioned briefly in Chapter 7, the School of Nursing won full accreditation from the National League for Nursing (NLN) in December, 1960. This major achievement represented a great deal of hard work on the part of the school faculty with the all-out support of the Board of Trustees and the hospital administration. Accreditation was renewed at each periodic NLN re-evaluation review in subsequent years.

As part of a continuing effort to streamline the schedule of the School, the February, 1961 class was the last one to graduate in that month. Throughout the remainder of the decade, a single commencement was held in September (not until 1971 did June become the official month of graduation). That same year (1961), Margaret C. McClean, Registered Dietician, became the first non-nurse on the full-time faculty. Several years later she was promoted to Assistant Director of the School.

Basic nursing techniques were first taught via closed circuit television in 1964. Prior to that time, equipment for demonstrations had to be physically hauled to the site, set up, and then disassembled for return to storage. This back-breaking procedure changed, much to the relief of the stevedore-instructors, when the Fundamentals Laboratory was converted into a TV studio, and the wizardry of electronics as a tool for teaching took over. Under the direction of former faculty member, Miss Patricia Zarella, '51, a number of "shows" were produced to bring graphic demonstrations right into the classroom. Several years later, through the generosity of the School of Nursing Department of the Women's Board, a video recorder was purchased. This made it possible to film and edit the copy instead of presenting it "live."

Meanwhile, the tempo of student activities stepped up rapidly. In 1962, the "Miss Jefferson" contest was launched under the sponsorship of the student newspaper, *Caps 'N' Capes*, in an effort to foster school spirit. Candidates were nominated by the students, screened by the faculty, and judged by the nursing staff,



Graduating nurse Loretta Davis, '61, gets a congratulatory kiss from a young member of her family prior to start of commencement program.



It's playtime for several tots in the Pediatrics Ward. Entertaining the youngsters are (left to right): Cathie M. Posey, '67; Cheryl Peters, '67; and Nancy Ayres, '66.



Architect's rendering of Jefferson Alumni Hall, which opened in the summer of 1968.

physicians, and faculty on the basis of appearance in uniform, nursing care, personality, school spirit, talent, and residence deportment. The winner received a blue sash emblazoned with the title and the year, a gold bracelet with a charm (a disc featuring a caduceus), and a bouquet of roses. The two runners-up were awarded movie tickets and corsages.

During its eight-year run from 1962-1970, the "Miss Jefferson" contest drew an enthusiastic audience from all segments of the School "family." Although there was no admission charge, the clamor for seats was such that the show was moved after its first year from the nurses' residence to McClellan Hall. Filling the role of emcee in the best "Bert Parks" manner were Doctors Robert Mandle, Milton Toporek, Roland Manthei, William Lemmon, Jr., and Edward Carden. As a matter of tradition, the reigning "Miss Jefferson" was invited to participate in naming her successor. Elizabeth Reed, '64, and Christine Reed, '70, were the only sisters to capture the honor. As evidence of their loyalty to the School and their devotion to nursing, no "Miss Jefferson" nor members of her court succumbed to enticing offers from beauty pageant promoters, Broadway producers, or Hollywood talent scouts.

On the dramatic front, the students wrote and staged a smash hit minstrel show in 1962, titled "Showboat," which was re-run in 1963 by popular demand. Subsequent shows—"A Fair to Remember" (1964), "A Musical Mistake" (1965), and "Fantastic Furlough" (1966)—also drew enthusiastic audience acclaim.

The basketball team, inspired by its rollicking cheerleaders, continued to make impressive showings and racked up a championship in the 1967-1968 Student Nurses' League. On the court, scoring was the main objective, but there were some humorous moments, too: the irrepressible Joy Stabile, '63, with her hats, wigs, and shouts trying to confuse the opposition; Gale Mackensie, '64, playing most of the games on her knees; Judy Kennet, '65, who after two seasons of bench warming, finally got into a game and, upon receiving a pass, turned and yelled to the coach, "Which way do I go?"

Attendance at both home and away games with basketball teams from such other nursing schools as Bryn Mawr, Lankenau, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia General, and Presbyterian was always heartening. Perhaps the top attendance



Members of the Student Nurses' Choir, snugly attired in their winter capes, sing familiar carols before the lighting of a Christmas tree outside the Foerderer Pavilion in 1961. Conducting is Ethel M. Riehle.

Winner of the 1968 "Miss Jefferson" contest was Marie Seebauer, '69 (left). Flanking her are Donna J. Kline, '68 (center), first runner-up, and Christine Reed, '70, second runner-up. Christine went on to be first runner-up in 1969 and then "Miss Jefferson" herself in 1970, the only contestant ever to capture all three places.



Sandra K. Payne, '68, captain of the 1967 Jefferson championship student nurses' basketball team (eight wins, no losses) jumps to tap-off ball in a hotly contested game.

record was set by Miss Margaret McClean, team sponsor, who only missed one game in 15 years. In addition to its 1967 and 1968 championships, the Jefferson student nurse basketball team also headed the league in 1973, 1974, 1978, 1979, and 1980 and filled a bulging showcase with trophies. A bit of "icing on the cake" was the award by the faculty of a white chrysanthemum corsage with black and blue ribbon to each member of the championship basketball squad.

Jefferson coeds also walked off with their share of prizes in competitions staged by the Area #1 Chapter of the Student Nurses' Association of Pennsylvania (SNAP). During the 1960's, membership in the organization was mandatory for freshman students and optional for upperclassmen. Jean Little, '63, and Eileen Cancelli, '67, both served as presidents of the chapter. Ruth Kessler, '65, and Marie Seebauer, '69, won the Outstanding Student Nurse contest, while Rosalyn Feller, '68, and Shirley Dubis, '68, won the Nursing Bowl competition.

The School of Nursing marked its 75th Anniversary in 1966. The seniors awarded diplomas that year brought the total number of graduates to nearly 4,000. In the fall of 1966, the School admitted 112 new students, a slight drop from the 120 entering the previous year. Total enrollment in the 1960's ranged from 300 to 332 students with incoming classes running from 100 to 132. By 1969, there were 33 full-time faculty members in the School besides the Medical College professors who taught the basic sciences.

When the School of Nursing was absorbed for administrative purposes into the newly organized School of Allied Health Sciences, Thomas Jefferson University, in 1968, enrollment was 236. That same year, the College Entrance Exam Board became an admission requirement. Also included under the umbrella of the new division was the School of Practical Nursing, a one-year program launched in 1964. The "School" of Allied Health Sciences was designated a "College" in July, 1969.

In the summer of 1968, the university's modernization program took a giant leap forward with the opening of Jefferson Alumni Hall. A basic medical science/student commons building, its recreational facilities include a gymnasium, swimming pool, sauna, game room, several leisure lounges, and a number of



A chorus line of "high kickers" (top) introduces a rip-roaring student nurses' variety and talent show in 1969. In next act (lower photo), Elizabeth A. Reed, '69 (foreground), steps out to sing accompanied by the 76 Trombones. Kathleen L. Shannon, '69 ("man" at far right), acts as emcee.



meeting rooms. All senior class presidents of the School of Nursing served on the Commons Board of Jefferson Alumni Hall.

Graduates of the 1960's indicated in their questionnaire responses a high degree of praise for the quality of nursing education at Jefferson. Such superlatives as "super", "great", "excellent", "outstanding", etc., sprinkled comments on the curriculum. Enthusiasm for the accommodations in the new student residence abounded. Several alumni singled out for special praise the Hobby Room on the top floor of the Martin Residence. It was equipped with a sewing machine, cabinets, work counters, easels for painting, typewriters, etc.

However, there were some critical notes about the strictness of the residence rules and discipline. One alumna has never forgotten the bawling out she received from a housemother when she returned from hospital duty in a scrub dress because a patient had bled all over her uniform. Some of her peers complained that the rules were 15 to 20 years behind the times and were more applicable to a nunnery than a student dormitory. On the other hand, a fair percentage said they would like to see some of that old-fashioned discipline supplant the permissiveness of young people today.

Darkness at Noontime

The buttermilk skies of the diploma schools of nursing, which had for many years supplied about 85% of the nation's nurses, began to turn sour in the mid-Sixties. In December 1965, the American Nurses' Association (ANA) issued its controversial position paper—a document that sent tremors of earthquake proportions throughout the entire nursing profession and opened a Pandora's box of questions and problems that still have not been either answered or solved.

Briefly, the ANA statement declared that basic professional nurse education should take place in institutions of higher learning and lead to a baccalaureate degree. Second, education for the so-called "technical" nurse (presumably one providing direct patient care) should be provided in a junior or community college associate degree program. Third, practical nurse training should be conducted in vocational schools. To all intents and purposes,



Marie Armstrong (left) and Sharon Bugen, both members of the Class of 1969, attend to a patient in the Orthopedics Ward.



Maureen Maguire, '63 (left), and the late Patricia McInerney, R.N., an instructor in pediatrics, assemble Christmas toys for children in Pediatrics Ward.

no provision was made for the continuance of the traditional hospital diploma schools of nursing.

Naturally, the ANA disclosure was greeted by howls of outrage and disbelief in many quarters. The student, faculty, alumni, and supporters of the diploma schools, including Jefferson, felt that they had been "sold down the river," so to speak. Doctors, patients, and even those whose direct interests were not involved joined in the chorus of protest against the ANA decision. Adding fuel to the fire was a general awareness that a vital supply line (*i.e.*, the diploma schools) was being cut off despite a desperate national shortage of nurses.

In all fairness to the ANA, it had been advocating and predicting the trend toward baccalaureate education for professional nurses since the 1920's to a rather apathetic audience. Its efforts to promote higher educational standards for nursing were based on changing health care needs, rapid advances in medical and surgical techniques, a myriad of new drugs, innovative laboratory technology, computerization in hospital administration, etc. Undoubtedly, the ANA proposals were sincere and had considerable merit. But the timing of their publication was unfortunate and ill-advised, to say the least.

The ANA position paper containing the guidelines for raising educational standards for nursing failed to point out that these recommendations represented a long-range goal that could only be achieved over a period of years. The lack of a timetable in the ANA program prompted high school guidance counselors to discourage well-qualified candidates from applying to the diploma schools.

This oversight naturally had an immediate and disastrous effect on the recruiting efforts of the diploma schools. By the end of the decade, many diploma schools had either closed or shortened their programs. Of the 501 nationwide diploma programs accredited by the National League for Nursing, only 58 continued to adhere to the traditional three-year program (*i.e.*, 144 weeks). Thirty-five of these programs were in Pennsylvania. The average program length was 121 weeks, exclusive of vacations.

The Jefferson School of Nursing, once the initial shock of the ANA cloudburst had passed, girded its loins to prepare for whatever might lie ahead. Several steps were taken to strengthen

the sinews of the School and reinforce its determination to remain in business for the foreseeable future. First, in 1968, the course of study was shortened from 36 to 35 months and the following year to 33 months. These reductions, however, did not lower in any way the high quality of nursing education on which the School had built its reputation.

Next, also in 1968, an affiliation agreement was signed with the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science whereby Jefferson nursing students could begin work toward a degree by taking college credit courses as electives. About 20 student nurses enrolled in these courses during the first year. On the home front, college credit courses in psychology and sociology were added to the curriculum. Starting with the class of 1970, a complete block rotation program was instituted that included: courses in psychiatric nursing at Philadelphia State Hospital and Eastern State School for Children; a six-week vacation for freshman students; and a reduction in operating room time from six to two weeks with the remaining four weeks spent in a surgical care unit with a complete follow-through of a minimum of four patients from pre-operative to post-operative care.

These changes were made partially in answer to the gauntlet thrown down by the ANA to the diploma schools. But even more they were part and parcel of a steadfast resolve to meet the challenges of the Seventies with faith and courage.



Sheila C. Schwartz (left) and Elayne L. Shachter admire one of the babies in the Nursery. Both girls are members of the Class of 1967.